

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

These amendments introduce no new matter and support for the amendments is replete throughout the application as originally filed. These amendments are made without prejudice and are not to be construed as abandonment of the previously claimed subject matter, or agreement with any objection or rejection of record.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Amended): A method of providing ~~on-line~~ certificates of authenticity for collectibles using an on-line computer system where a collector has personally witnessed the collectible being signed comprising the following steps:

- a. ~~connecting an originating computer system via an online communication system to a central computer system;~~
- b. ~~providing information from the originating computer system to the central computer about a collector and a collectible for which the collector seeks to obtain a certificate of authentication said information provided solely by the collector and where the collector has personally witnessed the collectible being signed; in order to obtain a user number for the collector and a serial a number for the collectible from the central computer and~~
- c. ~~storing the information about the collector and the collectible on the central computer;~~
- d. ~~printing and providing to the collector a certificate of authenticity; bearing a serialized hologram with bar code and an identical serialized hologram with bar code for attachment to the collectible;~~
- e. ~~requiring the collector to sign a statement on the certificate of authenticity that declares, under penalty of perjury, the information that the collector provided regarding the collectible is correct, thereby assuring authenticity of the collectible.~~

2. (Amended): A method of providing on-line certificates of authenticity for collectibles according to claim 1 further comprising: ~~the following step that occurs after step d~~

~~d.~~ allowing users to access information on a collectible that is stored on the central computer via an online communication system.

3. (Amended): A method of providing on-line certificates of authenticity for collectibles according to claim 1 further comprising: ~~the following step that occurs after step d~~

~~e.~~ allowing a subsequent ~~purchaser~~ owner of the collectible to register their ownership of the collectible by connecting their computer via an online communication system to a central computer and providing information to the central computer about the subsequent ~~purchaser~~ owner.

4. (New): A method of providing on-line certificates of authenticity for collectibles according to claim 1 further comprising:

at said central computer, determining a user number for the collector and a serial a number for the collectible.

5. (New): A method of providing on-line certificates of authenticity for collectibles according to claim 1 further wherein:

said collector is provided with a certificate of authenticity bearing a serialized hologram with bar code and an identical serialized hologram with bar code for attachment to the collectible.

6. (New): A method of providing on-line certificates of authenticity for collectibles according to claim 5 further wherein:

said serial number is assigned to the collectible, after the collector has provided the requested information.

7. (New): A method of providing on-line certificates of authenticity for collectibles according to claim 3 further comprising:

adding new information collected from said subsequent owner to historical information previously stored on the central computer.

8. (New): A method of providing on-line certificates of authenticity for collectibles according to claim 7 further comprising:

providing the subsequent owner a valid certificate of ownership showing a history of the collectible and its chain of ownership.

9. (New): A method of providing on-line certificates of authenticity for collectibles according to claim 1 wherein information requested from the collector comprises one or more of:

a description of the collectible item;
a name of a celebrity who autographed the collectible item;
a date and place the collectible item was autographed in the presence of the collector;
any limited edition information available such as the sequence number of the collectible and the total number in the limited edition;
an express warranty or guarantee the signature was personally witnessed by the collector;
the collector's true legal name and street address;
any identifying serial number on the collectible item; and
any additional information that may add to the legitimacy of the autograph such as the name of the trade show company that hired the celebrity, artist, or athlete.

10. (New): A method of doing business allowing a collector to authenticate a signed collectible using a computer system comprising:

providing a collector a set of user interfaces from a remote computer system;
requesting from said collector a set of collector information using said user interfaces;
requesting from said collector a set of information about a collectible using said user interfaces;
based on information received from said collector, generating a certificate of authenticity for a collectible, said certificate of authenticity containing a guarantee in writing by the collector, and a signature of the collector stating that the signature was personally witnessed by the collector and is therefore authentic.

11. (New): A method according to claim 10 further wherein:

said certificate of authenticity is provided with a pair of identical serialized holograms with bar codes on the certificate of authenticity and on a label that is to be affixed to the collectible item to ensure the collectible is traceable.

12. (New): A method according to claim 10 further wherein:

the collector must sign a statement on the certificate of authenticity that declares, under penalty of perjury, that the information provided to the remote computer regarding the collectible is correct.

13. (New): A method according to claim 10 further wherein:

said certificate of authenticity is provided only after:

the collector completes a customer inquiry screen with customer information for the collector; and

the collector answers a series of questions related to the collectible item being certified.

14. (New): A method according to claim 10 further comprising:

assigning a customer identification number to the collector.

15. (New): A method according to claim 10 further comprising:

storing said information relating to the collector, the collectible, and the certificate of authenticity at a remote computer system.

16. (New): A method according to claim 10 further comprising:

allowing a new owner to reregister a collectible on-line by providing information on the new owner and their acquisition of the collectible similar to the way that the original collector registered the collectible.

17. (New): A method according to claim 10 further comprising:

adding information provided by a new owner to historical information previously stored on the remote central computer in association with a serial number for the collectible.

18. (New): A method according to claim 10 further wherein information requested from the collector comprises one or more of:

a description of the collectible item;
a name of a celebrity who autographed the collectible item;
a date and place the collectible item was autographed in the presence of the collector;
any limited edition information available such as the sequence number of the collectible
and the total number in the limited edition;
an express warranty or guarantee the signature was personally witnessed by the collector;
the collector's true legal name and street address;
any identifying serial number on the collectible item; and
any additional information that may add to the legitimacy of the autograph such as the
name of the trade show company that hired the celebrity, artist, or athlete.